CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Remember

Live

Dream

October 11, 2008

REMEMBER

The Positive Impact Story

Positive Impact was founded in 1993 in response to the HIV care needs of Atlanta's highly stigmatized and low-income communities by a group of Atlanta area mental health providers. They believed that Atlanta needed a community-based agency dedicated to the HIV-related mental health needs of individuals living with HIV and their affected partners, family members, friends and caregivers. The founding board members made a commitment to enhance the capacity of the metropolitan Atlanta HIV services infrastructure by providing training and technical assistance to other agencies to help them better respond to the mental health needs of their clients. Direct services to clients began on April 1, 1993.

In 1994, the agency received funding from Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) to provide mental health case management to homeless people with HIV. This program was designed to assist clients with accessing the services needed to maintain housing, stabilize their lives, and then begin utilizing mental health services. Many clients also needed psychiatric support, including assessment, prescriptions, and assistance with medication adherence. In response to this identified special need, the agency established the psychiatric assistance program in 2000.

Ruth John-Bonnette; Dr. Michael Reece, Professor at Indiana University; Dr. Kimberly Dobson, Georgia Department of Human Resources - at an event in 2000.

In 1998, the agency formalized its training commitment to issues of diversity by establishing the Cultural Diversity Institute, an extensive and comprehensive two-day workshop that is presented on, at minimum, an annual basis. The Institute works in collaboration with mental health professionals in the community to better enable mental health service providers to address the increasingly complex cultural issues associated with HIV and AIDS.

Positive Impact was one of the collaborating agencies in the Emory Center for AIDS Mental Health Services (CAMS—the original SAMHSA mental health project) and was instrumental in encouraging the Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Services Planning Council (Title I) to establish the Mental Health Task Force to continue some of the work that the CAMS project initiated. The Executive Director of Positive Impact, Paul Plate, has previously served as the Chair of the Task-force; Gwen Davies, Clinical Director for Positive Impact currently serves as the Chair. In 1999, Positive Impact staff worked with the Congressional Black Caucus Atlanta committee to establish funding priorities. The agency has received Minority AIDS Initiative funding to provide counseling services in Spanish, to provide outreach services, and to present trainings to both clients and service providers.

Positive Impact has a documented history of developing and maintaining long-term relationships with community-based organizations, health departments, academic institutions, and other organizations focused on public health. One of the unique achievements of Positive Impact has been the coordination of a partnership with *AIDS Survival Project* and *AIDS Treatment Initiatives* to establish "The 139 Center," a comprehensive community-services center for people living with HIV. The agency also has received recognition by the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta as a finalist for the 1997 Managing for Excellence Award, and the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta presented the agency with the 2000 J.C. Penny Golden Rule Award for volunteer services. The agency's Executive Director received the 2000 John Kappers AIDS Community Service Award, one of Atlanta's most prestigious awards for HIV-related services, and was awarded a Fellowship to the Center for Social Innovation Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford University in 2002.

The original Positive Impact staff: seated, Paul Plate , Executive Director; standing, Barbara Williams, Volunteer Coordinator; Heather Williams, supporter; Sandra Muckle, Homeless Outreach Coordinator; Phillip Meeks, Clinical Director. Photographed around 1995.

LIVE

Positive Impact's Work

Mental Health Services:

Positive Impact's mission is to provide culturally competent mental health and prevention services to individuals affected by HIV. The first component of this mission statement illustrates how we provide direct mental health services in a manner that is respectful of and capitalizes on the clients' unique cultural background in order to provide the best possible intervention for that client. For example, a Latino client may not respond in exactly the same way as an African-American client. The reasoning for these responsive differences vary, including the fact that mental health treatment in the Latino community is sometimes viewed as weakness or an inability to handle one's own affairs. Therapy, therefore, must be approached competently in order for it to be efficacious. The practice of psychotherapy involves a complex network of theories dating back to 1886 when Sigmund Freud began his work with "hysterical" patients. His pioneering work, adopted and modified significantly over the next century by other social scientists, forms the root structure of today's practice of psychotherapy and psychology.

Dr. John Blevins presenting a training on Depression and HIV. Photographed at Positive Impact's offices in June 2008

Positive Impact engages the services of paid staff members and a roster of professional volunteers who provide an array of services to HIV-infected persons. Most of Positive Impact's mental health services can be described in one of three ways: counseling mode, by populations served, and by funding source. **Counseling mode** simply describes the physical structure of the mental health intervention. In general, Positive Impact provides model services in one of four ways: one-on-one, couples, family, and group counseling. **Population** describes services that are tailored to and geared toward a specific group of people. An example of a specific population would be African-American men or incarcerated women. Describing our model services by **funding source** refers to grants, foundations and fundraising internally associated with programs at Positive Impact. Frequently, social and human services are paid for by government grants, and these grants tend to be very specific in the type of direct service being provided. Therefore, specific programs tend to be referenced by their grantor's name.

Prevention Services:

Georgia ranks 11th largest in population in the United States, yet has the 8th highest number of AIDS cases reported. The State of Georgia continues to have a high number of AIDS cases, with the largest concentration of cases in Health District 1: Fulton County. Georgia also has been among the top ten states for reported cases of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and Chlamydia. As of June 2008, Georgia reported a total of 35,120 AIDS cases (HIV/AIDS Summary—2nd Quarter 2008, GeorgiaAIDS.org, 2008).

Early on in the epidemic, the population with the largest number of cumulative AIDS cases in Fulton County was Caucasian men who have sex with men (MSM). In the mid-1990's, that trend began to shift, and the county saw a dramatic increase in AIDS cases in racial minority populations, particularly African American MSM and African American women. According to the Epidemiologic Profile for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Planning of Georgia (2003), the highest number of persons with AIDS continues to be men who have sex with men. In Health District 1: Fulton County, nearly one-fourth of all AIDS cases are Caucasian MSM. It is clear that while the trend has shifted, Caucasian MSM are still significantly at higher risk for HIV transmission in Fulton County, being second only to the African American MSM population in Fulton County.

Positive Impact was launched as an early effort over 15 years ago to respond to the growing HIV epidemic in Fulton County. HIV prevention and risk-reduction services have historically focused on seronegative individuals. **Positive Impact** recognized early on that the individuals transmitting the virus were those persons already infected. **Positive Impact** assumed a leadership role as the first agency to target infected individuals with a prevention and risk-reduction program. In recent years, the Center for Disease Control has identified an increased need to target those individuals already infected with HIV, both to reduce the transmission of HIV to uninfected individuals, as well as to minimize chances of re-infection. **Positive Impact** continues to include HIV-positive individuals in its outreach and prevention efforts.

Partners Aaron and Shelton have benefited from services received at the "139 Center". Photographed in 2006.

DREAM

The Future of Positive Impact

Positive Impact continues to grow and enhance its current programs, develop new programs and target new communities. Plans include the opening of a day treatment program for clients with substance use challenges, an HIV testing program, a fee-for service program and enhanced services for women, children and families.

A new home is also part of the dream. The agency is searching for a more cost effective home with ample parking that is more easily accessible. The gift of a building is the largest hope that we currently have.

There are many ways that you can share our dream and support the work of the agency. Here are a few ideas:

Sustaining Partner Program

Giving a modest amount each month provides a sustaining source of revenue for all of our programs and activities.

One-Time Donation

You may give online through our simple, secure donation service or simply send a check in any amount to our office. You can make your donation in honor of an individual or organization to whom you would like to pay tribute or in memory of someone. We will also keep your donation confidential if you wish.

Workplace Giving

Give through your workplace through the Georgia Shares campaign, a federation of non-profit organizations committed to social change for all Georgians.

Planned Giving

Estate-planning with Positive Impact in mind. Contact our Director of Advancement for information on how to include Positive Impact in your will.

In-Kind Donations

Providing needed goods and services.

Parties with Impact

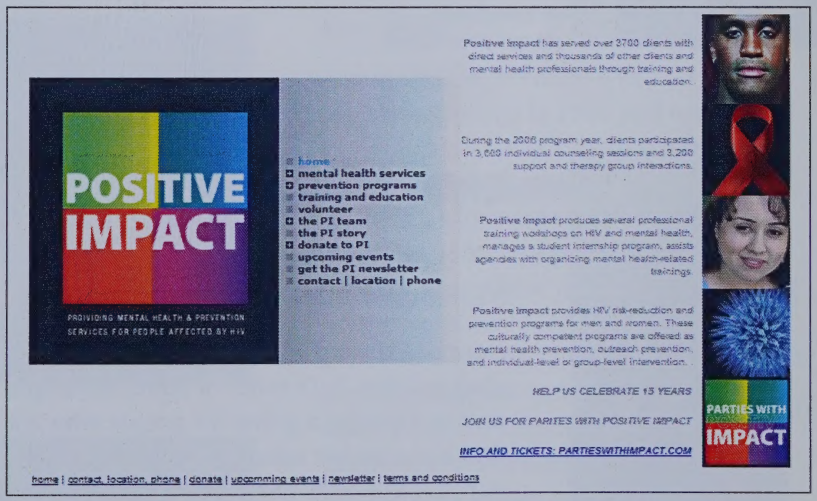
Turn your next social event into a simple fundraiser.

Individual giving is among most important source of funding for nonprofit organizations. Your generous gift of any amount is critical to our ability to continue offering a wide range of vital programs and services free of charge to people infected with and affected by HIV. A significant and crucial portion of our budget is funded by your contributions.

Supporting Positive Impact's mission and activities has never been easier. Please visit our website (www.positiveimpact-atl.org) for more information, or contact Michael Baker, Director of Advancement at 404-589-9040 or via e-mail at development@PositiveImpact-Atl.org.

Positive Impact is incorporated in the State of Georgia as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your gifts are fully tax deductible. (In the case of special events, auctions, etc., that portion of your gift above the value of goods or services received is tax deductible.) Further financial information is also available in our Audited Financial Report. A link to our audit and annual form 990 can be found on our website.

A screen capture from our website. As part of a 2006 corporate identity project, Positive Impact was able to introduce a new logo and contemporary web presence. Program information, volunteer opportunities, and training events are available to anyone seeking HIV specific mental health and prevention services.


POSITIVE IMPACT
PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH & PREVENTION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HIV
home
mental health services
prevention programs
training and education
volunteer
the PI team
the PI story
donate to PI
upcoming events
get the PI newsletter
contact | location | phone
Positive Impact has served over 3700 clients with direct services and thousands of other clients and mental health professionals through training and education.
During the 2006 program year, clients participated in 3,500 individual counseling sessions and 3,200 support and therapy group interactions.
Positive Impact produces several professional training workshops on HIV and mental health, manages a student internship program, assists agencies with organizing mental health-related trainings.
Positive Impact provides HIV risk-reduction and prevention programs for men and women. These culturally competent programs are offered as mental health prevention, outreach prevention, and individual-level or group-level intervention.
HELP US CELEBRATE 15 YEARS
JOIN US FOR PARTIES WITH POSITIVE IMPACT
INFO AND TICKETS: PARTIESWITHIMPACT.COM
PARTIES WITH IMPACT
home | contact, location, phone | donate | upcoming events | newsletter | terms and conditions

Georgia Shares is a federation of non-profit organizations deeply committed to social justice for all Georgians. By participating in a payroll deduction plan at your workplace, your dollars make a difference in our communities.

Profiles of our Honorees

Dr. Sarah Lopez - photographed in 2008

REMEMBER

Dr. Sarah Lopez

Sarah's work with people affected by HIV spans more than two decades. She joined the Board in 1996 and served as Chair for two years. Committed to issues of diversity, she established the Diversity Committee of the Board and has been on the faculty of the Diversity Institute since it was founded. She has also volunteered in many other ways including decorating, supervision, counseling and mentoring. She brings her sense of color and inner joy to all she does. Her husband, Frank, is her best friend.

Veronica Motley - Photograph from 2006

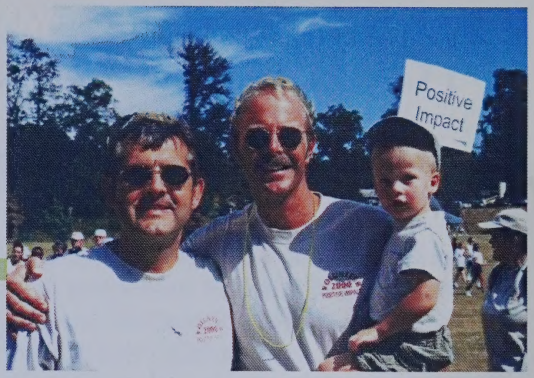
LIVE

Veronica Motley

Veronica started with Positive Impact as an intern in 2003 and joined the staff in 2004. In October of 2006, she began seeing clients as a volunteer and co-chairing a group for people who are newly diagnosed with HIV. She has used her talent and persuasive abilities to organize her church to support the AIDS Walk. The staff describes her as compassionate, gorgeous, fabulous, insightful and fun to be around. And she sings.

She describes her husband, Gary, as a gift and her son, James, as an awesome young man and the source of the most pride of anything of which she has been a part.

Craig Pigg, with partner Michael Prudent and their (now much older) son, Cooper



DREAM

Craig Pigg

Craig has been volunteering and raising funds to support AIDS Service organizations for more than fifteen years. A decade ago, he asked some of his friends to walk with him in support of Positive Impact. Last year, he raised $14,845 and his friends raised another $10,000 for the Walk team. As co-chair of the Positive Impact Walk team, he has been cheerleading, buying cookies, taking pictures and setting an example of how to organize family resources to support your heart's work. Michael, his partner, and Cooper, their son, are the loves of his life.

Ann Vitale

Ann started with Positive Impact as a counseling intern in 1995 and continued as a volunteer counselor through 2006. She began her work as volunteer co-chair of the Walk over a decade ago. Her longevity with the agency is rooted in her appreciation of how the agency treats and honors volunteers. Ann lost her brother to HIV in 1989; her brother's commitment to counseling and including his family in counseling is a driving force in Ann's commitment to an agency that provides critically important services to people affected by HIV. Her son, Nick, is her greatest joy.

Middle - The 2007 AIDS Walk Atlanta Team picture

Bottom - The AIDS Walk Team from 1997

Profiles of our Clients

KAREN WEST + POSITIVE IMPACT = BELONGING, CONNECTION, SERENITY

"I was a wife in '86, a mother in '87, and a widow in '88," stated Karen West, a long-term survivor of HIV/AIDS whose husband succumbed to the disease. Karen worked through the stages of grief and sustained good health through her tenacity in educating herself about the latest in drug and emotional therapies, keeping grounded and humble through her faith, and working with the staff of Positive Impact throughout the agency's history.

"They make a positive impact on everyone who comes through these doors." - Karen West

"When I first came to Positive Impact, I had this wall around me. I'd built it brick by brick. Since working with her counselor, it's not as solid as it used to be," Karen said. She's opened up and learned to trust. "It's okay to let down my guard in here. I'm not judged. I get pointers and my feelings are validated."

Within an atmosphere she describes as peaceful, serene and without distractions, Karen knows that she is not simply a case or a number. "When I'm speaking, they don't just listen. I'm being heard."

"Here, I'm a person. I'm Karen West. There are no labels put on me and I love that." She has experienced a professional staff that is honest and genuine, one that truly cares about nurturing her feelings and mental state. Additionally, they respect and protect her anonymity and confidentiality, and do so with caring hearts. "Whatever is going on, they are here for me. This is more than just a job to them."

"You are like a part of the family, like you belong, a part of something positive," she said enthusiastically with a smile. "They make a positive impact on everyone who comes through these doors. They are still making a positive impact on my life."

—Wayne Smith

Writer

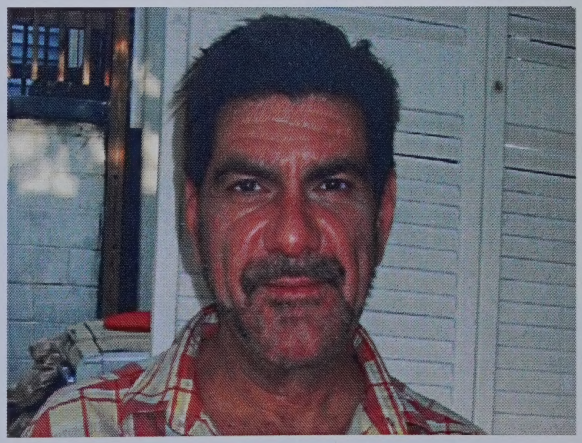
JOHN McCLURE + POSITIVE IMPACT = COMMUNITY, DIGNITY, GRATITUDE

"Within six months, I lost my lover, my business, and my father, then my family disowned me," stated John, a 55 year-old Atlanta native whose had HIV for 24 years and under medical care for 14 years. He had recently come in contact with Positive Impact as a volunteer assisting in decorating their new space some five years ago. He became their client soon thereafter.

Regarding his counselor, John said, "He's a good listener and helps me formulate a plan, bringing clarity from being overwhelmed in what I've been doing on my own. I couldn't be where I'm at today without the sense of continuity, his genuine warmth, concern and care. I have no doubt that every part of his service is very real." His caring and flexibility have extended to doing sessions over the phone when John couldn't make it to the office.

Positive Impact has played a significant role in John's healthcare by providing individual and group counseling services, while also facilitating an expansion of community.

"I've made friends with the members of my long-term survival group. We've helped support each other with grocery shopping, through car troubles, even encouraged each other on topics like dental care. That could seem trivial, but who else would we talk to about it?" John said. Praising the group facilitator, he said that the tone is respectful and present-oriented, not combative or aggressive. Valuing the shared experience, John would like to see this group become larger, knowing it would help others.



"Positive Impact has become my support group." - John McClure

"Being alone in the world without family, a partner or immediate support, Positive Impact has become my support group," John said. "They try to make life easy on everybody. I have a deep debt of gratitude for their services. I've never encountered anything like it. They are a class act."

—Wayne Smith

Writer

Profile of our Executive Director

Paul Plate, as told by a staff member

The Paul Plate I know has been the Executive Director of Positive Impact since the agency's inception. There are very few AIDS service organizations over ten years old that can make that same claim. It's a truism that non-profit work is invigorating, and it can also be grueling and painful. This is especially true given the environment that gave birth to Positive Impact in 1993.

Paul received his undergraduate degree in Youth Agency Administration from Salem College and earned his Master degree in Counseling from West Virginia University. His social service career started as Director of the Upward Bound Program in West Virginia. After seven years, Paul relocated to Georgia to accept the position of regional director for Youth For Understanding, an international student exchange program. In 1985, he began his mental health career by becoming the Director of the Child Abuse Recovery Unit at the Bridge Family Center.

Many of our local AIDS service organizations and community based committees have benefited from Paul's dedication. He was one of the original founders of Project Open Hand, and served as Chair of the Board for two years. Paul was a member of the Ryan White Planning Council for Metropolitan Atlanta for 15 years, serving as chair of both the Evaluation Committee and the Mental Health Task Force. He has received Fellowships from Gay Men's Health Crisis and Stanford University's Center for Social Innovation Executive Program for Non-profit Leaders. Paul has traveled to Kenya to consult and teach about mental health services provided by community based organizations.

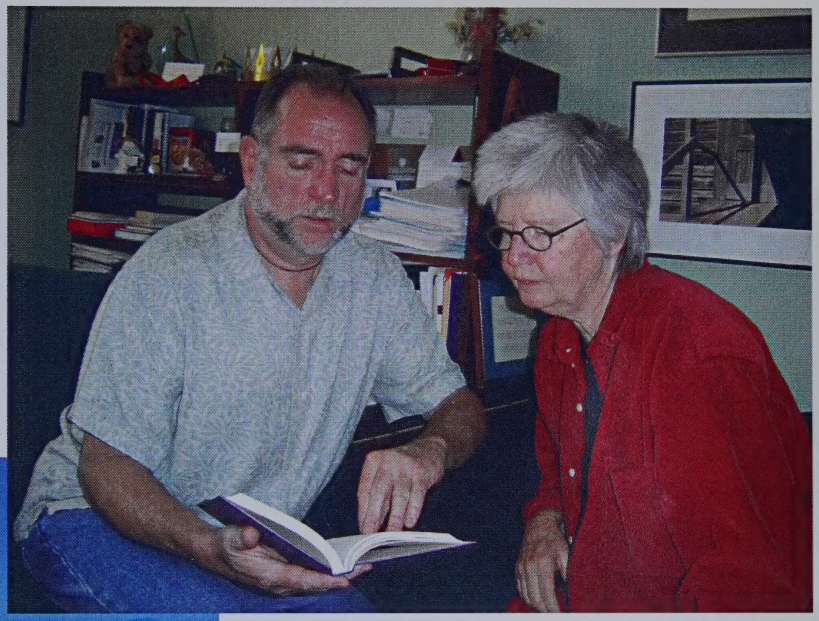
More recently, Paul helped orchestrate a Partnership Agreement between the three AIDS service organizations housed at the "139 Center" - Positive Impact, AIDS Survival Project, and AIDS Alliance for Faith and Health - in order to provide more cost effective and viable services.

I can't help but be amazed by his accomplishments, yet they do not define the character of this man. During the short time that I have served on his staff, Paul has found time to nurture, counsel and advise me whenever needed. I'm not the only one that he tends to in his "garden" at Positive Impact. Paul finds time to give all twenty staff members and twelve interns the care we require to help us do our jobs...which is to facilitate culturally competent mental health and prevention services for those affected by HIV and AIDS.

I don't deny that there are many amazing Directors in this City; there are. What is true, however, is that this Agency would not be the agency that it is today without Paul Plate. His time and service have had a tremendous impact on thousands of lives, and we are all the better because of him.

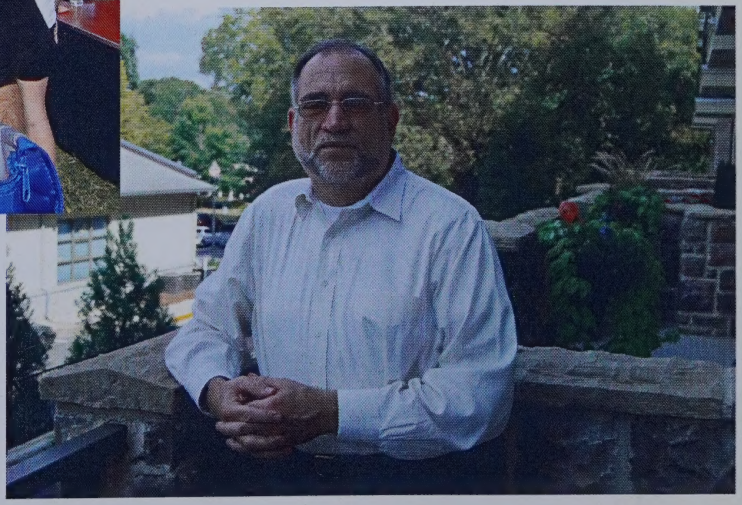
--Michael Baker
Director of Advancement

Right - Paul Plate with colleague, Mollye Daughtry in 2004.



Above - Paul Plate at the 2006 AIDS Walk Atlanta. The crown symbolizes a member of the 'Extra-Mile Club' - people who raise $1000 or more.

Below - Paul Plate photographed in 2008 at Piedmont Park.



Positive Impact would like to thank the following Positive Impact Staff for their service to the organization and the community:

Paul Plate, *Executive Director*
Michael Baker, *Director of Advancement*
Mark Lambert, *Administrative Manager*
Nicole Scott, *Director of Volunteer Services & Training*
Gwen Davies, *Clinical Director*
Moneta Sinclair, *Associate Clinical Director*
Michael Jeffrey, *Clinical Administrative Manager*
John Williams, *Substance Abuse Program Manager*
Zoe Dale, *Intake Coordinator/Mental Health Counselor*
Bryan Raybon, *Mental Health Counselor*
Chrystol Wilson, *Substance Abuse Counselor*
Claudia Becerra, *Hispanic/Latino Counselor*
Eglee Treber, *Hispanic/Latino Counselor*
Jeff Figueroa, *Hispanic/Latino Counselor*
Danny Sprouse, *Prevention Director*
Natoya McMurray, *Prevention Specialist—Women's Programs*
Tesha Tyson, *Prevention Specialist—Homeless Programs*
Anthony Estelle, *Prevention Specialist—Men's Programs*
Coti Perez, *Prevention Specialist—Latino Programs*
Dr. Brian Teliho, *Psychiatrist*
Bruce Parrish, *Outreach Specialist—Men's Programs*
Glenn Fitch, *Outreach Specialist—Men's Programs*
Thomas Speer, *Workshop Facilitator—Men's Programs*

Positive Impact would like to thank the following Positive Impact Board Members for their service to the organization and the community:

Mark Dvorak, *Chair*
Paul Saros, *Vice-Chair*
Ruth Shim, *Secretary*
Sandra Kolka
L. Monique Harris
Tom Blenk
Jennifer Barry
Toni Ross, *Chair Elect*
Leon Morales, *Treasurer*
Natasha Whitfield, *Past Chair*
Wendell Johnson
Meghan Marino
Puja Seth

Positive Impact would like to thank its Sponsors for Parties With Impact:

Urban Body Studios
Cut Flowers Wholesale
Craig Combs Photography
Will Pollock Photography and Stone Four Media
Wayne Smith, Writer
Mandy Roth
Metrotainment Cafes and Frank Bragg

Positive Impact would like to thank its hosts for Parties With Impact:

Philip Rafshoon & Outwrite Books
Toni Ross & Jim Weir
Dr. Ruth Shim
Allen Thornell & Chad Prosser
Mark Dvorak & Dino Thompson
Wendell Johnson & Paul Plate
Kevin Mylod

Steve Trask
Joe Ventura
L Walls
Dr. Natasha Whitfield
Stephen Zink & Alan Holloway
Rey Lada
Leon Morales

Dr. Scott Bartruff
Tom Blenk
Joaquin Casajuana
Dan Deckbar
Jimmy Ebersole
Sandra & Jim Kolka
David Payne

Positive Impact would like to thank the Parties With Impact Planning Committee Members:

Toni Ross, Parties With Impact Co-Chair
Michael Baker (Staff)
Tom Blenk
Joaquin Casajuana
Toni Castel
Toni Castel
Mark Dvorak
Kyle Greer
Erin Highsmith

Paul Saros, Parties With Impact Co-Chair
Meghan Marino
Leon Morales
Omar Nino
Paul Plate (Staff)
Rich Porter
Nicole Scott (Staff)
Bryan Raybon (Staff)
Jim Weir

Positive Impact would like to extend a very special thank you to Georgia State Representative Karla Drenner. Additional thanks goes to R. K. Jones, and Trevor Sizemore and his staff at Viewpoint in Midtown.

And to so many who may not be named here...You have given in ways that cannot always be measured or named. Please know you hold a special place in the heart of the Agency, Staff and Committee members.

With profound gratitude, we say simply: thank you for your time and efforts.

The mission of Positive Impact is to facilitate culturally competent mental health and prevention services for people affected by HIV.

Positive Impact is a community-based volunteer-driven organization that supports the continuum of HIV care in metropolitan Atlanta by providing a comprehensive array of mental health and prevention services to individuals, groups, and families affected by HIV.

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